Extradition of Extremist sikhs from UK under the Commonwealth Fugitive Offenders Act

1803 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.K. Government has categorically state that Indian Government has never applied for extradition of Sikh extremists based in Britain and that India could apply for extradition under the Commonwealth Fugitive Offenders Act;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of our Government in this regard?

(c) whether India has asked for extradition of the Sikhs extremists under the provision of the said Act; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The question of taking action against anti-Indian extremists in the U.K. has been repeatedly taken up with the U.K. Government. The U.K. Government have informed us that they have considered the various provisions of the British laws, including those on deportation/extradition, and have come to the conclusion that could not be brought that would be likely to lead to conviction.

(b) Government have on several occasions conveyed their concern and displeasure to the U.K. Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise on account of the position taken by the U.K. Government.

Relaxation of extradition laws by UK

1804. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the UK Government was considering relaxing of extradition laws to make it easier for foreign countries to secure return of suspected criminals,

(b) whether UK has passed any laws in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of India has sought return of suspected criminals responsible for killing of a number of Indians there;

(d) if so, what is the number of criminals who have been returned by the UK Government to India; and

(e) whether the return of many more criminals is being sought by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Some reports in this regard have come to Government's attention.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have taken up with the UK Government the question of effective punitive action against anti-Indian extremists in the UK, including deportation of such persons to India.

(d) None.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Cooperation in the field of science and technology between India and South Korea

1805. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any protocol of cooperation in the fields of science and technology between Governments of South Korea and India has been signed during the South Korean Prime Minister's visit to India; and

(b) if so, what are the specific areas of cooperation in the fields of science and technology given effect to and which are envisaged?